

SENATE BILL 1743

By Jackson

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 12, relative to special courses in the high school curriculum.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 12, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

49-6-1207.

(a) Local education agencies are authorized to offer elective credits or credits in the technical prep high school curriculum through cooperative agreements with non-profit organizations under the following terms and conditions:

(1) The local board of education must approve all cooperative agreements which must be in writing and must include, but not be limited to:

- (A) The name of the course;
- (B) The minimum number of student contact hours;
- (C) Whether the course is offered as an elective or as part of the technical prep high school curriculum;

(D) The qualifications of the instructor; and

(E) Any funding provided to the non-profit organization by the local board of education;

(2) Only courses for which no state board of education approved teaching endorsement exists may be approved for credit under the provisions of this section;

(3) Local boards of education may enter into such agreements only with non-profit organizations which are located in the geographical area served by the local education agency and whose primary purpose is to promote educational programs with an emphasis on state of the art technology;

(4) Any course offered under this section must have prior approval of the department of education acting in accordance with the state board of education policy on special courses; and

(5) Any funding provided to a non-profit organization under this section shall not exceed, on a per pupil basis, the regular tuition charged other attendees for the same or similar classes.

(b) It is the intention and purpose of the legislature that local education agencies be authorized and encouraged to work with local non-profit educational organizations to offer classes for high school credit in areas where no teaching endorsement is recognized. Further, it is the intention and purpose of the general assembly that the primary emphasis of courses offered under the provisions of this section be technology-based courses, including, but not limited to, industry-recognized certifications in areas such as software engineering, computer programming, computer graphics and design, and computer aided design.

(c) The local board of education shall not enter into agreements under this section if such agreements directly result in the elimination of an existing course offering of the local board of education.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.